

I claim:

1. A garment adapted to be worn and including light emitting accents visible to an observer, comprising:

(A) a garment body;

(B) a length of piping supported on said garment body, said piping constructed as a sleeve of mesh material of a selected mesh size so as to have a sidewall formed by loosely woven strands and having an open interior;

(C) a length of flexible cable received in the interior of said sleeve, said cable being of a type that can emit visible light therefrom; and

(D) a power source supported by said garment body and operative when in an active state to cause said length of cable to emit light therefrom such that light can pass through said piping thereby to be visible to an observer.

2. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said piping frames a portion of said garment body.

3. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said piping forms a design feature on said garment.

4. A garment according to claim 3 wherein said garment body has an independent decorative element formed thereon, said piping being associated with said decorative element so as to cooperate with said decorative element thereby to form a decorative design.

5. A garment according to claim 4 wherein said decorative element is formed by a piece of fabric material.

6. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said piping forms a portion of said garment body.

7. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said mesh size is such as to have mesh openings of about 1/16th inch by 1/16th inch (1.6 mm by 1.6 mm).

8. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said garment body includes a light reflecting portion, said piping and said cable being disposed adjacent to said light reflecting portion.

9. A garment according to claim 1 including a pouch secured to said garment body, said pouch sized and adapted to receive and support said power source.

10. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said cable is an electroluminescent wire that produces light in response to an applied electric current, said power source operative to produce an electric current and in electrical communication with said electroluminescent wire.

11. A garment according to claim 10 wherein said power source produces and alternating electric current.

12. A garment according to claim 11 wherein said power source is a battery operated inverter.

13. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said cable is formed substantially of a non-toxic material.

14. A garment according to claim 1 wherein said garment body includes a frame portion formed of a stiff wire, said piping extending coextensively with said wire and being supported thereby.

15. A garment adapted to be worn and including light emitting accents visible to an observer, comprising:

(A) a garment body;

(B) a length of flexible electroluminescent wire supported by said garment body, said electroluminescent wire operative to produce visible light in response to an applied electric current;

(C) an electric power source supported by said garment body and in electrical communication with said electroluminescent wire such that, when in an active state, said power source causes said length of electroluminescent wire to emit light therefrom; and

(D) a pouch secured to said garment body, said pouch sized and adapted to receive and support said electric power source.

16. A garment according to claim 15 wherein said garment body includes piping supported thereon, said piping constructed as a sleeve of mesh material of a selected mesh size so as to have a sidewall formed by loosely woven strands and having an open interior, said electroluminescent wire being disposed in said sleeve.

17. A garment according to claim 16 wherein said mesh size is such as to have mesh openings of about 1/16th inch by 1/16th inch (1.6 mm by 1.6 mm).

18. A garment according to claim 15 wherein said electroluminescent wire frames a portion of said garment body.

19. A garment according to claim 15 wherein said electroluminescent wire forms a design feature on said garment.

20. A garment according to claim 19 wherein said garment body has a decorative element formed thereon, said electroluminescent wire being associated with said decorative element so as to cooperate with said decorative element thereby to form a decorative design.

21. A garment according to claim 15 wherein said garment body includes a light reflecting portion, said electroluminescent wire being disposed adjacent to said light reflecting portion.

22. A garment according to claim 15 wherein said power source produces and alternating electric current.

23. A garment according to claim 22 wherein said power source is a battery operated inverter.

24. A garment adapted to be worn and including light emitting accents visible to an observer, comprising:

(A) a garment body;

(B) a length of piping supported on said garment body, said piping constructed as a sleeve of mesh material of a selected mesh size having mesh openings of about 1/16th inch by 1/16th inch (1.6 mm by 1.6 mm) so as to have a sidewall formed by loosely woven strands and having an open interior;

(C) a length of flexible electroluminescent wire received in the interior of said sleeve, said electroluminescent wire operative to produce visible light in response to an applied electric current; and

(D) an electric power source supported by said garment body and in electrical communication with said electroluminescent wire such that, when in an active state, said power source causes said length of electroluminescent wire to emit light therefrom such that light can pass through said piping thereby to be visible to an observer.

25. A garment according to claim 24 including a pouch secured to said garment body, said pouch sized and adapted to receive and support said electric power source.

26. A garment according to claim 24 wherein said piping frames a portion of said garment body.

27. A garment according to claim 24 wherein said piping forms a design feature on said garment.

28. A garment according to claim 27 wherein said garment body has an independent decorative element formed thereof, said piping being associated with said decorative element so as to cooperate with said decorative element thereby to form a decorative design.

29. A garment according to claim 24 wherein said garment body includes a light reflecting portion, said piping being disposed adjacent to said light reflecting portion.

30. A garment according to claim 24 wherein said power source produces and alternating electric current.

31. A garment according to claim 30 wherein said power source is a battery operated inverter.

32. A method of forming a garment so as to have light emitting accents, comprising:

affixing a piping to a portion of the garment as a sleeve having an interior wherein said piping has a sidewall formed by loosely woven strands;

placing a length of flexible cable in the interior of said sleeve wherein said cable is of a type that can emit visible light therefrom; and

causing said cable to emit light.

33. A method according to claim 32 wherein said piping is affixed to said garment by sewing said piping at a seam between two garment portions.

34. A method according to claim 32 wherein said piping is affixed to said garment along with an associated independent decorative element adjacent thereto.

35. A method according to claim 32 wherein said cable is an electroluminescent wire and the step of causing said cable to emit light is accomplished by applying an electric current to said wire.

36. A method according to claim 32 wherein said piping has a mesh size so as to have mesh openings of about 1/16th inch by 1/16th inch (1.6 mm by 1.6 mm).